

San Juan Public Lands People



News of and for current and past San Juan Public Lands employees & partners



Summer 2008

Dolores Office Leads Community Recycling



DOLORES PUBLIC LANDS OFFICE

DOLORES – The Dolores Public Lands Office (DPLO) has taken the lead in promoting sustainable operations in Montezuma County through the Four Corners Recycling Initiative.

The DPLO Sustainable Operations Program and its community partners were awarded just over \$91,000 from a new grant administered by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

The funding is generated by a surcharge on landfill fees. The State allocated \$1.3 million for this grant cycle, and plans to offer it for one more year.

The DPLO grant request included 16 letters of support from supporters who have become partners in the effort, including Montezuma County, Ute Mountain Indian Tribe, Town of Dolores, Town of Mancos, Crow Canyon Archeological center, Dolores and Mancos school systems, and Cortez middle and high schools.

The DPLO is proud to be one of the designated locations for one of the recycling containers purchased through the grant. These 30-yard recycling containers have four compartments able to accept mixed paper, cardboard and mixed metal. The container at the DPLO will be available to the public for the recycling of these commodities.

The recycling effort is focused on schools and institutions, such as the DPLO, that produce large amounts of waste paper and cardboard, as well as mixed metals. These items were chosen because they currently have high market value as recyclables, and the Montezuma County landfill is able to bale and process them. Recycling of the mixed metals is being made possible through a local metal salvage yard.

The DPLO is excited about the opportunity this initiative presents to the Four Corners community and will work hard to making this first step a successful one!

- Eric Freels

It Must be Summertime!



Minding the ever-popular homemade french fries at the annual Cheeseburgers in Paradise luncheon at the PLC in May were (from left to right) Tom Boness, Stephanie Odell, and Matt Janowiak.

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PUBLIC LANDS CENTER NEWS



Ann Takes BIA Position

DURANGO - Ann McDonald, former BLM Initial Attack Dispatcher, has been named BIA Aircraft /Lead Dispatcher in the Durango Interagency Dispatch Center.

Prior to working in Dispatch, Ann worked for the San Juan Mountains Association. She started her federal career with the National Park Service in 1976 at the Carl Sandburg Home in North Carolina, handling interpretive work teaching visitors about Sandburg's goat herd, and taking care of the goats.

Ann also worked as an assistant county ranger with the North Carolina State Forest Service after attending the state's ranger training program. She holds a degree in Wood Products Technology and Forestry.

Ann and her husband, Larry Fleig, are the proud parents of Stella, a rescue dog; Riley, a calico cat; and Turtle Girl, a western box turtle.

They are building a house at Summit Ridge with the goal of having it finished before retirement.

- Ann Bond

Shawna Leaves

GRAND JUNCTION - Shawna Legarza was selected this spring as Manager of the Grand Junction Dispatch Center. Shawna had led the San Juan NF Interagency Hotshot Crew since 2002.

Shawna's past experience includes Type 3 Incident Commander, Division-Group Supervisor, and Burn Boss Type 2. She is currently a trainee for Type 2 Operations Section Chief, Safety Officer and Air Attack.

Her career includes several seasons with the BLM Alaska Fire Service, including two years as North Star Fire Crew Superintendent. Shawna was a Station Manager in Everglades National Park and for the BLM Black Mountain Hotshot Crew.

Shawna also worked in Nevada on a helicopter crew and an engine. She holds an Associates degree in Wildland Fire Management, Bachelors degree in Physical Education, and Masters degree in Kinesiology.

- Ann Bond



Kim's Back in the Southwest

DURANGO - It's a story of "you can take the girl out of the Southwest, but you can't take

the Southwest out of the girl" for Kim Round, who dropped by the PLC to let folks know she's in southern Utah, working as Landscape Architect for Zion National Park.

Kim, a former San Juan Landscape Architect, left last year to work for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Portland, Oregon. However, she longed for the sunny open skies of the Southwest and jumped at the chance to move back to this part of the country.

Kim lives in Toquerville, Utah, a "sweet little town," with her trusty dog Flash, and handles landscape architect duties for several NPS sites, including Zion, Pipe Springs, Cedar Breaks and Bryce Canyon.

"I'm working on fee-demo projects and am already busy getting ready for the Park Service's 2016 Centennial Celebration," she says.

Kim plans to visit Durango often to see all her friends here.

- Ann Bond



Justin's New in Dispatch

DURANGO - Justin Moore is the new Initial Attack Dispatcher at the Durango Interagency Fire Dispatch Center in the PLC.

He was formerly an Assistant Engine Foreman in Duchesne, Utah, where he worked on the Ashley NF since 1999.

Justin holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Southern Utah University. He enjoys fly fishing, hiking, mountain biking, and travel.

- Ann Bond

PUBLIC LANDS CENTER NEWS



Sheryl's in Energy Shop

DURANGO - Sheryl Cunningham, who has served as Legal Assistant and Administrative Clerk for the San Juan since 2004, has been promoted to Petroleum Engineering Technician in the PLC Energy Shop.

Sheryl's previous duties have included mailroom, electronic correspondence databases, purchasing authority, office supply inventories and ordering. She also worked in the Durango Interagency Fire Dispatch and helped with radio communications on fires in Wyoming and Montana.

Her new position will fill the vacancy created when Gary Retherford was named Lead Petroleum Engineering Tech. Sheryl will take the oil and gas certification course this fall.

"The San Juan is fortunate to retain the services of such a dedicated professional," said Rick Rymerson, BLM Minerals Staff Chief. "We appreciate Sheryl's enthusiasm, hard work and continued high-caliber service."

"I look forward to working in the field and learning a different side of the oil and gas process," she says. - Ann Bond

Jamie's Heading Out

DURANGO - Jamie Krezelok, term Hydrologist for the San Juan, is leaving for the Medicine Bow-Routt NF in Steamboat Springs for a Permanent Hydrologist position.

Jamie has been on the San Juan for the past three years, working on water rights; serving on interdisciplinary teams for timber and fuels projects; planning, implementing and monitoring restoration projects; and conducting stream habitat assessments.

Jamie graduated from Northern Arizona University in 1998 with a Bachelors degree in Environmental Science. In 2004, she graduated from the University of Arizona with a Masters in Hydrology. After graduation, she spent a summer working as a Hydrologic Technician in Grand Teton National Park.

Jamie moved to the San Juan from Gillette, Wyoming, where she had worked for one year as a consultant on methane-gas permitting and planning for Applied Hydrology.

- Ann Bond



Vicki Named "Goddess of Wilderness"

DURANGO - Vicki Duvall, who splits her time between serving as the Infra Coordinator for the San Juan NF and National I-Web Help Desk Lead for Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Trails, was named the "Goddess of the I-Web Help Desk" by the USFS Washington Office and her peers at a recent meeting in Denver of the Wilderness Recreation Monitoring Strike Team.

Vicki was honored for her professionalism and dedication to customer service in the development of and training for the agency's data base for wilderness, known as INFRA-WILD.

"Vicki is regarded as one of the I-Web Help Desk staff's elite," said Rich Adams, USFS I-Web Product Manager. "She is the 'go to' person for answering difficult questions."

Vicki was also honored for the support she offers Forest and District wilderness data stewards who call her for help on their end-of-year reporting.

"Vicki always finds a way to help us, and we appreciate everything she does for us," said Ralph Swain, USFS Regional Wilderness Program Manager. "Her expertise and training skills help us manage wilderness to standard."



- Steve Boutcher, USFS Wilderness and Wild & Scenic River Information Manager

PAGOSA NEWS

New Assistant Captains



PAGOSA SPRINGS - Chad Daugherty has returned to Pagosa as an Assistant Engine Captain.

Chad is the fourth generation of his family from Crawford, Nebraska. Like his father, he was a volunteer firefighter and worked at the local uranium mine.

Chad studied fire science at Southeast Community College in Lincoln, Nebraska. He then was an engine crewmember for four seasons on the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands in South

Dakota.

In 2006, Chad came to Pagosa as an engine crew member. He left to work for a year in Cody, Wyoming, on the Shoshone NF as a lead engine crewmember.

Chad's partner, Joanie Thompson, works at a bank in Pagosa Springs. Chad looks forward to his first elk hunt this fall, but his first love is fishing – by boat, from shore, through ice, and, soon, by fly. During the winter he enjoys skiing and woodworking.

Tom Kelsea has been an Assistant Fire Engine Captain since the spring. Originally from Hillsboro, New Hampshire, Tom went to school at Southeast Community College in Lincoln, Nebraska.

He worked at Buffalo River National Park in Arkansas, then for the Student Conservation Association (SCA) in Iowa, applying prescribed fire for prairie reconstruction. He continued with SCA as fire crew logistics manager in Albany, New York.

In 2005, Tom went to work as a crewmember on the San Juan Hotshots in Durango. During his three years with the hotshots, he became an Emergency Medical Technician.

Tom enjoys mountain biking, snowboarding, hiking and camping close to home. In December, Tom will marry Melanie McGill, a pre-school teacher, who will be entering graduate school at Colorado State University in Fort Collins this fall.

- Phyllis Wheaton



Vita has Retired

PAGOSA SPRINGS - Vita Herrick, Pagosa Administrative Support Assistant, retired this spring after 34 years with the San Juan NF.

Vita started as a trainee in 1974, and although she worked in several positions, her duty station was always Pagosa. Over the years, she worked for seven district rangers and two acting district rangers.

Vita was the core of the Pagosa Ranger District. When asked what she liked about the job, Vita says she liked everything. That sums up her treatment of every person, her amazing attitude, and her approach to every task.

Vita's retirement celebration was attended by over 200 people. Even Elvis was in the house!

Retirement finds her well. She is volunteering at her church, spending time with friends and family, has planted a garden and is thinking about going fishing. There will be no standing still for Vita. "Every day is exciting for me, but then, every day always was," Vita says.

- Phyllis Wheaton



Pagosa Scores Three Energy Micro-grants

DURANGO – The Pagosa Office was the big winner this year when the San Juan Public Lands Ranger District/Field Offices were awarded micro-grants from the USFS Rocky Mountain Regional Energy Management Team.

One micro-grant will allow Pagosa to extend its xeriscaping and water-conservation efforts to two employee dwellings next to the downtown office. Last fall, Pagosa employees and partners implemented a xeriscape plan and installed low-flow toilets at the main office.

"In 2006, we used 54,000 gallons of water. After installation of low-flow toilets and xeriscaping, we used 36,000 gallons," says Beth Jones, who submitted the grant proposals.

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PAGOSA NEWS

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Pagosa also received a grant for a direct-current photovoltaic system to reduce the use of propane at the Silver Falls Cabin, a historic structure rented to the public.

Yet another micro-grant for Pagosa will fund replacement of a natural-gas, hot-water heater in a warehouse bathroom with an on-demand, tankless, hot-water heater. Pagosa also scored with a micro-grant to install bear-proof recycling receptacles at the Teal and Williams Campgrounds.

The Columbine Office received a micro-grant to add loose fill-blown insulation to a garage building now being used as an office in Bayfield and another to install bear-proof recycling containers at the Junction Creek Campground. The Dolores Office received a micro-grant to help xeriscape the grounds of its new office building.

Eligible projects must be related to energy or water conservation, or renewable energy, and must be implemented this year. Micro-grants can be awarded up to \$2,000 per proposal. Projects can be submitted by any employee, regardless of discipline and or appointment.

Projects were judged on cost savings, reductions in energy/water consumption, decreases in consumption of natural resources, ease of implementation, ability to be shared and or replicated on other units, overall benefits to the region and agency, matching funds or other supporting resources, and partnership and/or local community involvement.

- Ann Bond



Out with the turf and in with the hardy native plants means using less water for landscaping at the Pagosa Office.



(Left to right) San Juan Rangeland Management Program Leader Mark Tucker presents the San Juan's first-ever *Weed Warrior Award* to Alison Brady, Pagosa Ecology Crew member, and Sara Brinton, Pagosa Ecologist.

Weed Warriors Honored

PAGOSA SPRINGS – Pagosa Ecologist Sara Brinton is the recipient of the San Juan's inaugural *Weed Warrior Award*. Sara was honored for her "bravery in the face of daunting odds in providing outstanding assistance to the San Juan Public Lands Invasives Species Program" in 2007.

The new annual award is designed to recognize employees who report the most weed inventory during a field season. The number of acres and sites inventoried are calculated using the San Juan's geo-database.

"Total inventoried acres don't yet represent the total acres infested with noxious weeds, but little by little, we're getting there," said Mark Tucker, San Juan Rangeland Management Program Leader. "I really appreciate the effort and time employees put into the noxious-weed inventory, and those doing this kind of work deserved to be recognized. Reporting noxious weed infestations using our database really saves staff time, as inventory data goes directly into our system."

Sara Brinton and Alison Brady of the Pagosa Ecology Crew inventoried the 113 sites and 1,713 acres in 2007 to win the award. Dolores ecologists Cara Gildar and Leslie Stewart came in second and third.

- Ann Bond



DOLORES NEWS



Brad's on the Engine

DOLORES - The Dolores Public Lands Office has two new Fire Engine Operators - Brad Pietruszka and Bryce Paul.

In addition to his duties as Engine Operator, Brad is responsible for supervising and training seasonal firefighters as well as keeping track of the Office fire cache.

He will also continue to update his qualifications through the National Wildfire Coordination Group.

Brad worked as a seasonal wildland firefighter on the Dolores unit for three seasons before landing his permanent assignment.

Originally from Rochester, Illinois, Brad has also worked on a prescribed burn crew for the National Park Service at Buffalo National River.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Fort Lewis College. In his spare time Brad enjoys backpacking, mountain biking, fly fishing, and rafting.

- Toni Kelly

Artist-in-Residence Program in 13th Year

DOLORES - The Aspen Guard Station Artist-in-Residence Program is in full swing, with eight artists and teachers scheduled to stay at the historic ranger station this summer and fall.

The residency program is open to painters, writers, poets, musicians, photographers, sculptors, performers, and other artists.

Those selected are offered the opportunity to stay and produce art at the historic Aspen Guard Station for one to two weeks.



Karina Hean, the first artist in residence at the cabin this season, working in the studio of the Aspen Guard Station.

"The program provides us the opportunity to use our treasured historic facilities for a use beyond administrative," says Jamie Sellar-Baker, Associate DPLO Manager. "The artists who have participated over the years have helped bring the public closer to public lands through their work."

The Artist-in-Residence Program is sponsored by the Dolores Public Lands Office and Cortez Cultural Center. Representatives of the art community donate their time and expertise to serve on the judging panel each year.

Information on the program is available on the San Juan National Forest Web site.

- Ann Bond

This year's residents include Karina Hean and Connie Imig of Durango; Dianne Milner of Bayfield; Michelle DiGiacomo of Denver; Juliette Watts of Collingswood, New Jersey; Dan Oakleaf, of Arvada; Elizabeth McDonald of Gallop, New Mexico; and Mike Znerold of Dolores.

The Aspen Guard Station served as a USFS ranger station after being built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Today, it houses the residency program from June through September each year. Residents make art and funding donations to the program and share their talents with the public through exhibits, open houses and workshops.



(Left to right) Zachary Valentiner, Caleb Morrison, Forest Harris and Ryan Corman of the DPLO Fire Crew joined volunteer Sam Kelly to cut and stack firewood at the cabin this spring.

DOLORES NEWS



Members of the National Smokejumper Association take a break at the Glade Guard Station. Last year, the Smokejumper Association cleared more than 160 miles of trail, restored historic structures and repaired corrals and fences on National Forests across the country.

Smokejumpers Help Restore Glade Guard Station

DOLORES - The San Juan National Forest spent a week in June renovating the historic Glade Guard Station, with the help of the National Smokejumper Association, Bacon Family Foundation, and Ballantine Family Fund.

Volunteers worked alongside San Juan staff to help repair the wear and tear of decades of non-use and neglect, which were threatening the integrity of the structure. The group improved site drainage, repaired the foundation, painted exterior walls, and restored doors and windows.

Once restoration work is completed, the cabin will be furnished and offered to the public as a recreational rental property under permit by the Jersey Jim Foundation.

"In addition to offering the public a unique experience, renting out the guard station will generate income for future maintenance," said Julie Coleman, San Juan Heritage Team Lead. "Having the cabin occupied and in use will also help discourage the vandalism that often plagues abandoned structures."

The Glade Guard Station was first established in 1905 as ranger's headquarters for the Montezuma NF (now part of the Dolores District of the San Juan NF). The structure is one of the oldest USFS administrative sites in Colorado, and is listed on the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties and considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

- Ann Bond

COLUMBINE NEWS

Filling In for Fire

BAYFIELD - The Columbine Public Lands Office has a number of new folks filling in for fire duties until fire jobs are filled permanently.

Eric Brantingham is on detail as Fire Management Officer (FMO). He is from the Norwood Interagency Fire Management Zone, where he serves as Assistant FMO. Prior to 2000, he worked in recreation and wilderness management, with collateral fire duties.

Eric spends his free time enjoying the outdoors with his wife, Andrya, and two sons, JD and Kade.



Mike Boomer is detailed to Columbine as the Assistant FMO. He is from Boise, Idaho, where he has worked as a BLM Smokejumper since 2001.

Mike began his federal career in 1989 with the Sierra NF Hotshots. In 1997, he went to work for the Kings Canyon National Park Hotshots.

During his down time, Mike enjoys telemark skiing, mountain biking and music.

Doug Paul is on detail as the Acting Columbine Prescribed Fire Specialist. He is from the BLM Grand Junction Field Office, where he works as Fire Mitigation Specialist. He earned a degree in Forestry from Colorado State University in 1983.

Doug began his federal career in 1978 with the USFS and has held a number of positions in fire, timber and fuel reduction since then with the National Park Service and BLM.

During his free time, Doug enjoys spending time with his family, hiking, fishing and hunting.

-Stanley Sparks



ANASAZI HERITAGE CENTER/CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT NEWS

Special Thanks to Our Volunteers and Interns

DOLORES – The Anasazi Heritage Center depends on volunteers and interns to help with many important tasks, including manning the front desk, performing landscape maintenance and handling curation duties. Canyons of the Ancients National Monument also benefits greatly from the efforts of San Juan Mountains Association volunteer Site Stewards, who help watch over the prehistoric and historic treasures of the backcountry.



Liz Quinn

The AHC front desk depends on volunteers like Ellie Kreyche, who enjoys the opportunity to educate the public on the Southwest. Nancy Evans volunteers at the front desk when she's not working part-time as a medical assistant or out exploring the canyon country. Larry Svendsen, who has lived in the area for 30 years, volunteers at the AHC front desk, as well as the Colorado Welcome Center in Cortez.

Lou Ann Burkett, a retiree from Montezuma Cortez High School, combines helping out at the front desk with serving as a site steward in Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. Rod and Kathryn Eckart also enjoy sharing their knowledge of the Southwest with visitors at the front desk. Carol and Ken Geiger have been volunteering at the front desk since January. Carol has worked in the AHC's Wetherill Archive Collection for three years and also helps out with the Museum Shop.

Curation is benefiting from the help of Karen Wright, whose specialty is the plant, Herbarium. Bruce Howard has a background in research and is helping to catalog artifacts.

Robert Riley and Freda Kelley are part of the Master Gardner Program. They assist in maintaining the plants outside the Anasazi Heritage Center and other landscaping on the grounds.

Liz Quinn is an intern working in Curation this summer. Liz graduated from Washington College in Maryland with a degree in History. Kelli Ford is an intern working in Archaeology for the summer. Kelli is majoring in Anthropology and has spent time in Peru, Argentina and Bolivia.

Thanks to off of our volunteers - we couldn't do it without your help!

- David Kill



Ellie Kreyche



Kelli Ford

SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS PEOPLE

is published by San Juan Public Lands Center Public Affairs Office
with assistance from USFS/BLM Visitor Information Specialists in
Bayfield, Durango, Dolores and Pagosa Springs.

You can read this newsletter and past issues online at:
www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan/about/newsletter.shtml

Other helpful BLM and National Forest information is available at:
www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan

-or-

www.co.blm.gov/sjra/index.html

